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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
EXTENSION SERVICE
Washington 25, D. C.

OUTLINE OF PLAN TO ASSIST THE MOVEMENT
OF

ATLANTIC COAST MIGRATORY FARM WORKERS

Over many years, the pattern of migratory movement of agricultural workers has developed in the Atlantic Coast States. Workers move North with the seasons through vegetable, fruit, and berry crop areas from southern Florida to New York. At the end of the crop season in the North, they complete the cycle to work again in Florida and the other Southern States. Workers move at their own expense or that of their employers. More than three-fourths of the migratory workers travel in groups, each group usually using one or more trucks. The person who furnishes this transportation is recognized by the workers and employers as a crew leader. He usually recruits the workers and makes arrangements for employment. Many of these arrangements are made one year for the next. About 25,000 workers were involved previous to the war, the reported number declining to less than 10,000 workers in 1943 and increasing to approximately 20,000 workers in 1945.

Additional assistance in migration that will be forthcoming from the Extension Service, in 1944 and 1945, facilitated the Atlantic Coast migratory movement as a part of its wartime farm labor assignment. A comparable program will be continued in 1946, designed to assist employers by directing migrants to areas where they are needed and to assist migrants by helping them to obtain full employment.

GENERAL POLICY

Under the Farm Labor Supply Appropriation Act, 1944, as amended and supplemented, the Cooperative Extension Service of the United States Department of Agriculture and the State Agricultural Colleges is responsible for the domestic labor phases of the program "to assist in providing an adequate supply of agricultural labor for the production, harvesting and preparation for markets of agricultural commodities essential to the orderly transition from war to peace." In performing this function, the Extension Service is desirous of continuing its assistance in maintaining established movements of agricultural workers. It aims to supplement, not to displace, the efforts of agricultural producers to recruit workers and of agricultural workers to find employment. Both employers and workers will be encouraged to use their own initiative in making employment arrangements and in solving employment problems. Employment relationships which have proved satisfactory should be maintained in so far as possible.

The objective of the Extension Service is to encourage the desirable movement and utilization of workers by collecting and distributing pertinent information. Assistance to employers of migratory workers will include the distribution of information to them regarding supply and movement of labor and other pertinent information about potential areas of recruitment and the type of living and working conditions that migrants desire. Assistance to migrants will include the distribution of information to them in regard to the current and future employment conditions and opportunities in all areas that use Atlantic Coast migrants.

PROCEDURE

The steps to be followed in 1946 in facilitating the movement of migratory workers on the Atlantic Coast are listed below.

In using the terms "State of need" and "State of supply", it must be recognized that each State using migratory workers is a "State of need" previous to and during the period when workers are employed in the State. Each State is also a "State of supply" previous to and at the time when migrant workers have completed their work in the State and are available for agricultural employment in other States.

1. The State extension services in States of need will determine the number of migratory workers needed in agriculture, in addition to workers available locally. They will make such determination for local areas and transmit regularly to the Federal Extension Service current information for such areas, regarding: Job to be done and crop conditions, number of migratory workers needed, period of employment, wages offered, living and working conditions, and other related matters which may be helpful in directing workers to local areas of employment. They will urge employers of migratory workers in each area to pool their needs and cooperate in the recruitment and utilization of the limited supply of workers available.

2. The State extension services in States of supply will determine the time when migratory workers in the States will be completing their work and the approximate numbers that will be available for employment in other States. They will prepare and issue identification cards to migratory workers who are proceeding to out-of-State work areas, and advise county agents in counties where these migrants expect to work. They will transmit regularly to the Federal Extension Service information regarding: Crop conditions and progress of the harvest, estimated numbers of migratory workers employed, dates when they will be available for further employment, and reports on the work plans of migrants to whom identification cards have been issued.

3. The Federal Extension Farm Labor office, in cooperation with the State extension services, will maintain information stations at strategic highway points. Their purposes are to collect helpful information regarding the movement and to assist migratory workers en route. Personnel at these stations will distribute information regarding employment opportunities in areas of need, notify county extension agents of workers planning to enter their areas, and record and report the movement of workers. Such reports will be furnished daily to the Federal Extension Farm Labor office.

4. The Federal Extension Farm Labor office will assemble and correlate pertinent information regarding employment situation, availability of workers, and progress of the movement. Appropriate timely information will be transmitted promptly to the States and information stations.

5. Extension services of States of supply and the information stations will distribute to migratory workers information regarding current and future employment opportunities in succeeding areas of employment.

6. The extension services in the States of need will provide employers with information on the seasonal movement of migrants, on State recruitment laws, and on crop conditions and migrant labor supply in areas where migratory workers are employed, preceding their movement into the State.

7. When the Federal Extension Service determines that additional information regarding employment opportunities is needed by workers, or that additional information regarding the supply of workers is needed by employers, representatives of extension services in States of need may visit areas of supply, when such visits are mutually agreed upon by the States involved. When employers wish to visit potential recruitment areas, they will be urged to make contact with the county agents' offices (or branch offices) in such areas to obtain further information before engaging in recruitment activity. If employers engage in any recruitment activity, it will be understood that they do so solely on their own responsibility.

8. The extension services in the States of need will urge employers of migratory workers to provide housing, sanitary facilities, and living conditions which will conform to the laws of the State and which will be attractive to migratory workers. Whether such housing be individual or group will depend upon the local situation. To make employment in the area more attractive for migratory workers, employers will be encouraged to provide for the care of children, recreational opportunities, and community acceptance of the workers.

9. The extension services in the States of need will develop an educational program to promote satisfactory employer-employee relationships. They will suggest to employers that they make arrangements with workers for the following season's employment and maintain suitable contacts with workers by mail through the intervening period.

10. The Federal Extension Service will assign field personnel to facilitate orderly operation of this program and to study problems related to the movement of migratory workers.

